

**ARTICLE 7**  
**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Section 7.01**

Working Environment: The Department recognizes the importance of health and safety on the job and agrees to maintain acceptable standards in the work place, including properly cleaned, heated, ventilated, and lighted working environments with adequate noise control whenever possible.

**Section 7.02**

Health and Safety Committee: The Health and Safety Committee comprised of three (3) representatives of the Employer and three (3) persons designated by the Union shall meet to discuss health and safety issues as required, not to exceed two (2) meetings per year, unless mutually agreed by the Union and Employer.

**Section 7.03**

Reporting: Employees are responsible for reporting unsafe conditions and situations which may impact employee health and safety, as directed in the DSS Administrative Policy. Employees shall not be intimidated, coerced, verbally or otherwise, after reporting an incident. Any time an employee is assaulted, property is damaged, or it is believed that there is an immediate threat of assault or damage to property, appropriate law enforcement officials should immediately be notified (e.g., local police department, sheriff's office, highway patrol, city marshal). The supervisor receiving the report from an employee shall report back to the employee in writing, if requested.

**Section 7.04**

All facilities where employees are present shall have a designated person with authority to insure all employees' safety and protection at all times in accordance with DSS policy. The employer shall post in a designated place the name of the designated person responsible.

**Section 7.05**

The Department pledges its support including use of any means available to press for prosecution of the perpetrator of an assault against an employee who was acting within the scope of her/her authority.